

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

42-0-19B-0

Hanover

HNS.213

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 75 High Street

Historic Name: Ezra Phillips/Marcus and Agnes
Urann House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling
Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1813

Source: White's History, Plan No. 4, Page 60

Style/Form: Federal/Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Composite

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): New cement
foundation installed when moved to this location,
small dormer on north facade

Condition: Average

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:**
1972

Acreage: .28 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-
family homes ranging from early eighteenth
century farmhouses to late twentieth century
suburban development on large lots which
includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees,
bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story, Cape house has a tall asphalt-shingled gable roof and sits with its gable-end façade to the street on a large, open lot. The house has had changes made to its original footprint and is wood shingle sided with composite material used for the trim including the overhanging gable eaves and soffits, as well as the narrow band of trim that surrounds the outer edge of the gable-ends. The house has no cornice board or corner boards but does have narrow returns at the lower corners of each gable-end. The house was moved to this location from the South Hanson depot area, which explains its cement foundation. A large but short brick chimney extends from the center of the ridge of the house. The double hung windows have all been replaced with twelve-over-twelve and nine-over-twelve vinyl replacement windows. Each window on the east and south façade is flanked by narrow synthetic shutters that are installed on the siding to either side of the window frames, which are narrow wood frames with projecting sills.

The house faces south towards an asphalt paved driveway shared with 59 High Street rather than east towards the street as the other homes in the area do. The east façade has two large double hung windows located to either side of the center entrance. A wide, projecting wood board is located above the door frame adjacent to the eaves and soffits. It is slightly wider than the door and may be the only surviving element of an original door frame. The board is not otherwise connected to the narrow frame surrounding the wood door at its center which is now protected by a storm door. The entrance opens onto a short cement landing with brick treads and detailing and two round metal tubes which serve as railing along each side of the steps. A brick walkway extends down the sloping site to the asphalt paved parking area. Two sets of stone steps are located at intervals along the walkway.

The east, street-facing, gable-end façade has two smaller double hung windows set close together in the gable-end over two taller windows on the first floor. A third, shorter double hung window is located in the northeast corner of the façade. On the north façade, the land drops down and the cement foundation is fully exposed. A door and possibly a window are located in the north façade of the foundation providing direct access to the basement. Above, a small shed roofed dormer is under construction at the center of the north roof slope. The dormer begins at the roof ridge but only covers about a quarter of the roof slope and has what appears to be a small casement window in its north façade. A larger casement window is located on the first floor below. In the northwest corner of the façade is a large wood deck with wood railings and square posts and balusters. The details of the entrance door leading onto the porch are not visible due to the surrounding trees.

The house sits at the center of an open grass lawn which slopes down to all sides around the house. The asphalt paved driveway and parking area run along the south property line and the north and west property lines are covered with dense trees and vegetation. A line of trees also screens the site from view around the northeast corner and portions of the east façade. Small, evergreen bushes on the east and south facades are located around the foundation of the house. Deciduous trees are also located close to the house on to the north where the land drops down for the basement access.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, the original location of the house at 75 High Street was on Main Street by the train station at what is now the corner of Main Street and Phillips Street. It was originally owned by and built for Ezra Phillips (1779-1856), the son of Lot and Diana Phillips, in 1813 on the site of an older house. This old house was torn down when the Phillips house was built. Ezra was a farmer while his son, Ezra Jr. (1810-1882), owned a prominent tack factory known as E. Phillips and Sons which employed many men from Hanover, Hanson, and the surrounding area.

Richard Abbott Everson (1850-1935) moved to this house around 1880 and first appears on the 1879 Walker Atlas. He lived there with his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1872, their four children, and eventually his sister, Imogene McClellan, a divorcee who is listed here in 1910. The 1880 U.S. Census listed Everson as a shoemaker but he also had a very small poultry farm here with a cow and a hundred chickens. This house appears to be his family residence but he also owned several lots along Phillips Street (approx. 34) that he later sold to the United Cape Cod Cranberry Company amongst others. These are shown on the 1903 Richards Atlas and described in the 1896 survey conducted by Walter E Damon.¹

Everson continued to own the property until his death in 1935 but was actually living in Florida at the time, where the 1935 state census lists him as a "Cranberry grower" and resident of Orange County. His heirs sold the property to Ralph and Emily Hall, a couple from East Bridgewater. Ralph Edmund Hall Jr. (1906-1970) worked as a poultry man at a processing facility. Emily was a Norwegian immigrant. In 1957, they sold the home to Marcus Libby (1873-1963) and Agnes (nee Copeland) Urann, a couple from Maine. Marcus Urann had moved to Hanson at the turn of the century, leaving his career as a lawyer, to purchase a cranberry bog.² Urann was the owner of the six-hundred-acre United Cape Cod Cranberry Company³ and is attributed with revolutionizing the cranberry industry by introducing canned cranberry sauce and juice to the market in 1912.⁴ This took a fruit traditionally sold fresh to one now overwhelmingly sold cooked, canned, juiced, and jellied. The 1930 census modestly lists his occupation as a "canner." Urann later joined with his competitors, Elizabeth Lee and A.D. Makepeace, to form Cranberry Cannery, later known as Ocean Spray.

Although the Urann's owned the property for several years, the family continued to live in their house at 1036 Main Street throughout this time. After Urann's death in 1963, United Cape Cod Cranberry Co. gave land on High Street to Marcus Urann's heirs—Garland G. and Ruth Urann Brooks and Wilson and Charlotte Brooks in 1968. That same year the two couples sold this parcel, along with the house, to John Ferreira.⁵ According to local historian Allan Clemons, Ruth Urann Brooks was responsible for saving the house by having it moved to her land on High Street, and an update to White's History explains that the house was moved in 1972 to 59 High Street. The current building at 59 High Street is the G.A.R. Post building apartments which is referenced in the deeds between Brooks et al and Ferreira as located "southeasterly" of their parcel. The existing house at 75 High Street was installed on a subdivided lot at the northern end of the 59 High Street lot and still shares a driveway with that parcel. Old Cape Realty, the current owner, purchased the home from John T. Ferreira of Duxbury in 2015.⁶

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 2, Page 142

² <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/this-man-made-the-first-canned-cranberry-sauce-180947862/>

³ Cox, Robert S. and Jacob Walker. 2012. *Massachusetts Cranberry Culture: A History from Bog to Table*. Arcadia Publishing.

⁴ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/this-man-made-the-first-canned-cranberry-sauce-180947862/>

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3427, Page 191-194

⁶ Along with two other plots – one with buildings on Main and Foster Street (3213, 176). Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 45366, Page 34-35

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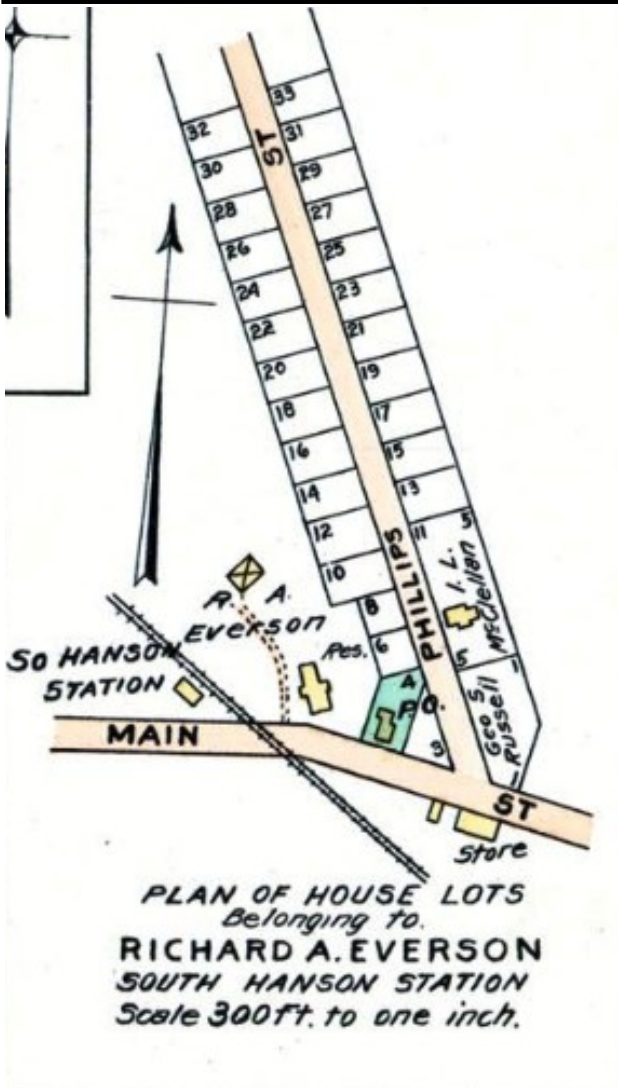
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Plan of House Lots belonging to Richard A. Everson excerpted from 1903 *Topographic Atlas of Plymouth County* by L.J. Richards. Plate 15.